

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 H-02 AGR-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 STR-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /039 W

----- 090413

R 021629Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2210

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR SZ

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON COFFEE PRICES

REF: A. STATE 44078; B. BERN 868

1. TWO DAYS AFTER THE EMBASSY REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE RETAIL PRICE OF COFFEE IN SWITZERLAND SINCE MARCH 1975 (REFTEL B), THE SWISS ASSOCIATION OF COFFEE IMPORTERS AND ROASTERS (WHICH CONTROLS ALL COFFEE IMPORTS) ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 28 AN QUOTE IMMEDIATE TWO TO THREE FRANC PER KILO INCREASE UNQUOTE IN THE PRICE OF ROASTED COFFEE. AN ASSOCIATION SPOKESMAN CITED THE FROST IN BRAZIL, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA, AND NATURAL DISASTERS IN GUATEMALA AND COLOMBIA AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR A REDUCTION IN THE WORLD SUPPLY OF COFFEE.

2. AS OF MAR 2, HOWEVER, THE ANNOUNCED INCREASE HAD NOT BEEN PASSED ON TO THE RETAIL LEVEL. THE DOWNTOWN BERN OUTLET OF SWITZERLAND'S LARGEST SUPERMARKET CHAIN RESTOCKED ITS COFFEE SHELVES ON MARCH 2 WITH PRICES UNCHANGED. UNDER THE GOS SYSTEM OF PRICES SURVEILLANCE, THE HIGHER PRICE FOR IMPORTED COFFEE MAY NOT BE APPLIED TO STOCKS ALREADY IN THE COUNTRY. BECAUSE IMPORTERS ARE REQUIRED TO CARRY LARGE STOCKS FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE PURPOSES, AND MANY CARRY ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY STOCKS, IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE RETAIL PRICES GO UP. IF THE ENTIRE INCREASE IN THE IMPORT PRICE IS CARRIED

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FORWARD, THE RETAIL PRICES SHOWN IN REFTEL B COULD

EVENTUALLY RISE 20 TO 30 PERCENT. THE EMBASSY WILL
REPORT CHANGES IN RETAIL COFFEE PRICES AS THEY OCCUR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: COFFEE, LOWER HOUSE, MEETINGS, PRICES, IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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